

Whysaurus

Jordan was better than LeBron.
Pineapple on pizza is good.
Aliens are real.



January, 2023

This talk

1. Who we are
2. What is Whysaurus?
3. How we can help your team



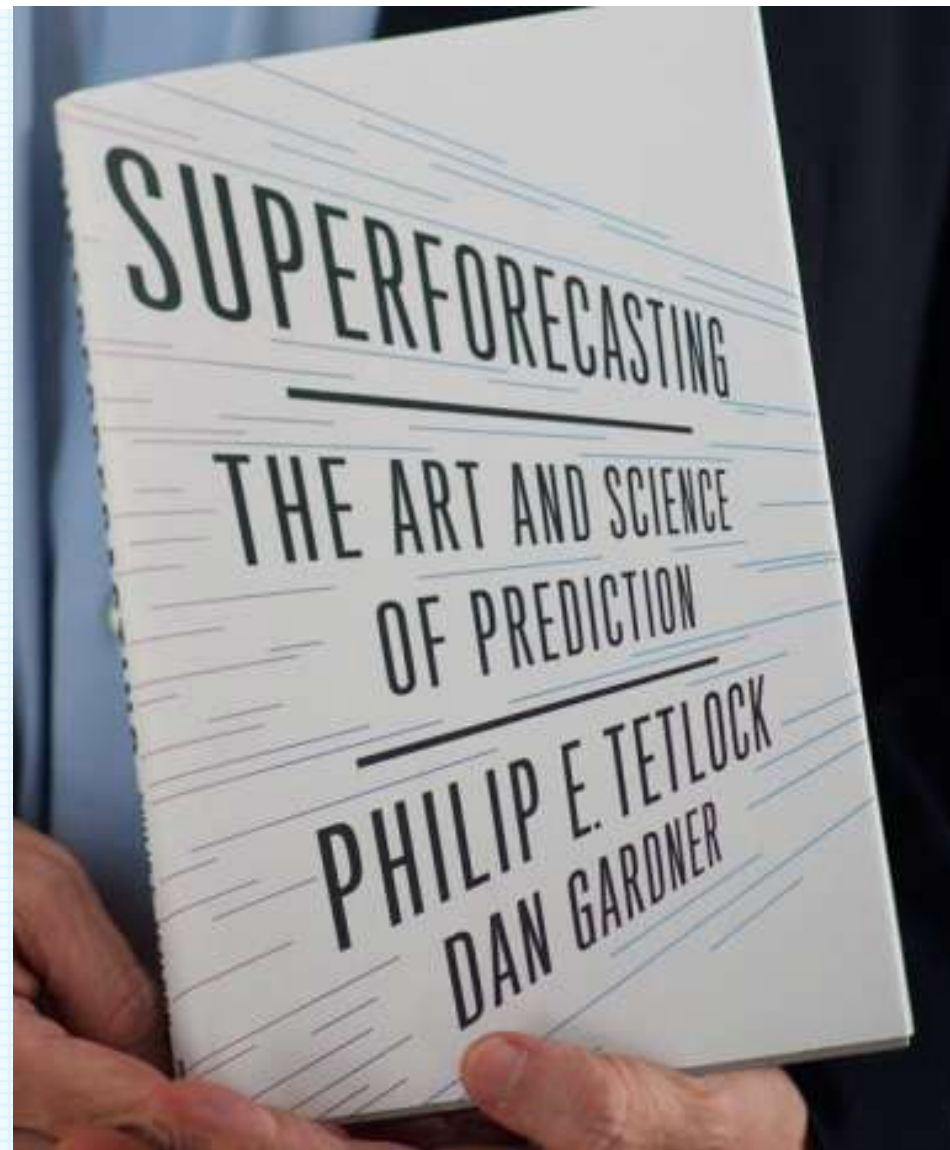
Who we are



Joshua Frankel

About me

- Superforecaster (I'm in the book :)
- Creative Strategist, designer and artist
- 20 years experience working in advertising



Joshua Frankel

Recent experience for IARPA CREATE—

Recruitment Campaign of study participants

- Developed Creative strategy and designed online ads
- Highlights—
 - Multiple creative campaigns running on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Quora
 - Impressions +8MM
 - Reach 2.8MM
 - Email Registrations 9,063
- In collaboration Gravy Boat Regatta, a boutique advertising agency; sub-contracted to Good Judgment, Inc



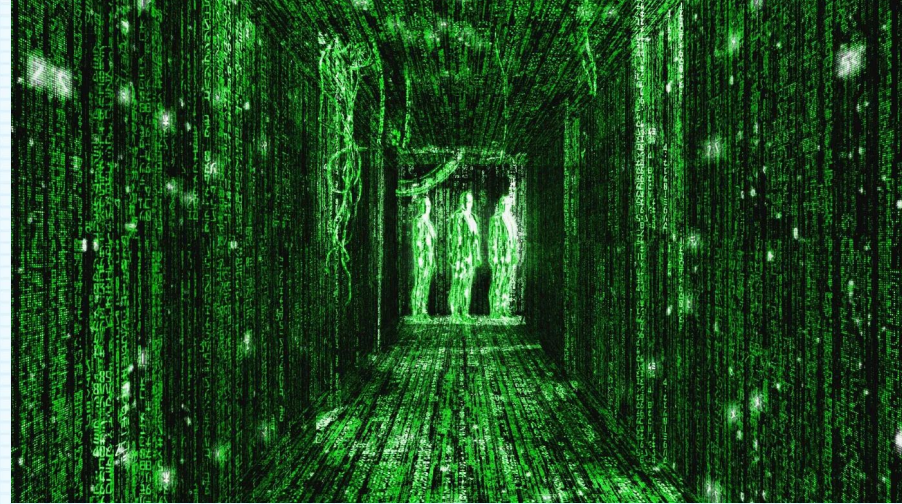
CREATE
BETTER REASONING



Whysaurus Collaborator #2

Relevant experience

- Artificial Intelligence researcher and tech lead at Facebook AI Research (FAIR) focused on multimodal ML
- Previously, a quantitative portfolio manager at a well-respected hedge fund
- Degrees in computer science and philosophy



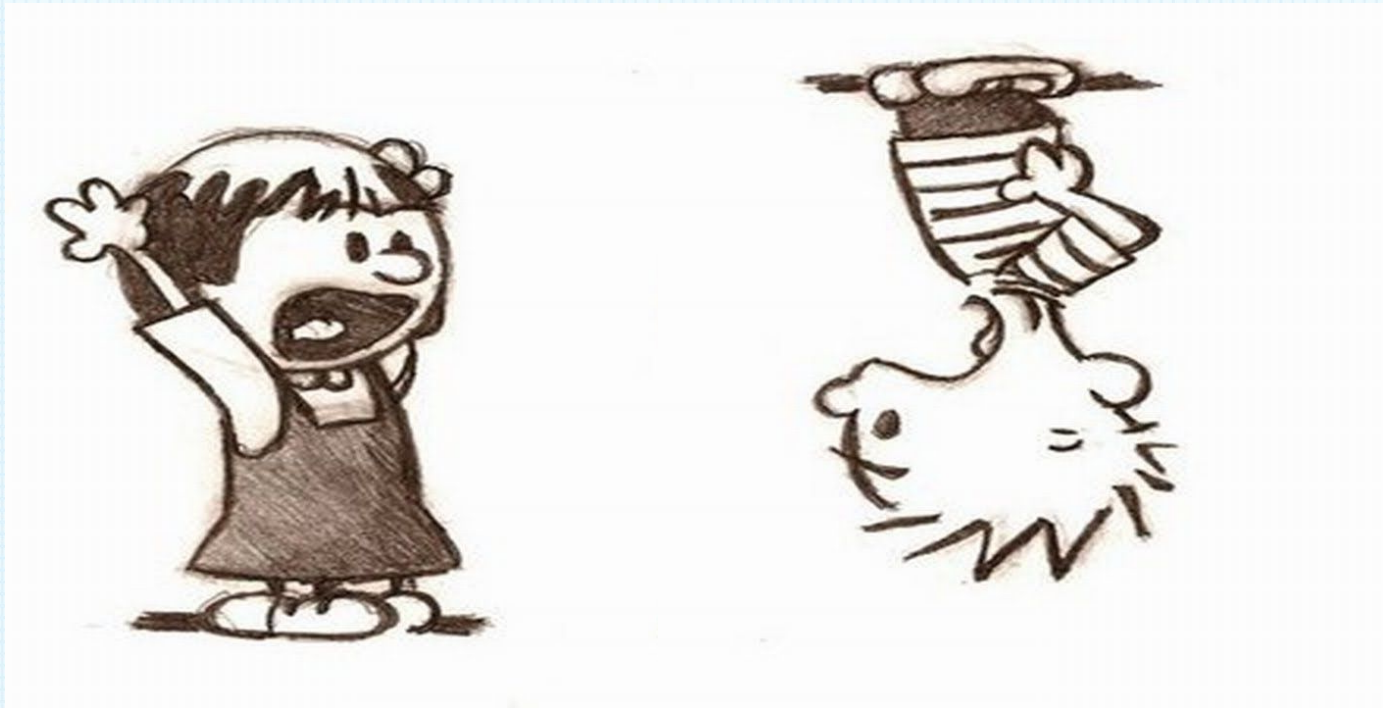
What is Whysaurus?



Argument Is How We Make Progress



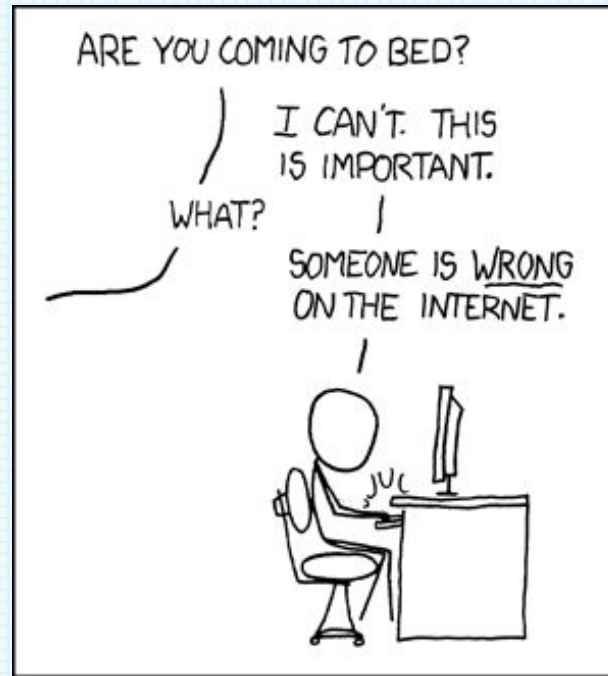
Argument is Broken



The Stakes Are High



Whysaurus is a platform for collaborative argument creation and evaluation



Collecting The Best Evidence-Based Arguments



The best arguments for everything at your fingertips
Just the key points. No filler. Each point is bite-sized, rated and filtered.



Click “See Evidence” on any claim.
If there’s no evidence, see that upfront.



Collaborate.
Diverse perspectives make arguments richer.
The best contributions rise to the top.



Current Features—Live Now!




- Collaborative—robust concurrency handling
- Make Claims with character limits
- Support or counter claims with other claims—into infinity!
- “See Evidence” button
- Rate claims with “agree” and “disagree”
- Rate links with relevance %
- Flag “Needs Evidence” or “Needs Clarification”
- Comment on claims and links
- Bayesian Argument scores
- Re-use claims to make new arguments quickly
- Version history tracking

@BillSimmons and 3 others

LeBron is better than Jordan was. **+56**

Hide Evidence · Agree Disagree



100%

@MikeFrancesca and 12 others

The level of talent NBA has risen, so LeBron plays against stiffer competition. **+24**

See Evidence · Agree Disagree · Relevance

88%

@Bullsfan23 and 3 others

Jordan’s stats are extra-impressive because he left the NBA in his prime to play baseball **+36**

Hide Evidence · Agree Disagree · Relevance

100%

@JoeyFromQueens and 12 others

Jordan left the NBA when he was 31 years old and returned when he was 33. **+21**

Project Background

- Intuitive, humane UX first. We believe structured argument is a UX problem that requires higher standards for design and UX than most other digital projects—and have made that our priority.
- UX built in React/GraphQL
- 14,000+ unique users to date with robust concurrency handling and scalable architecture
- Trials with The College Board, UC Berkeley, and the Superforecasters
- ~10 Years of research, experimentation insight and iteration
- Work-in-progress (you might find bugs!)



How we can help your team

Here's one idea...

(And we're very open to your ideas too!)



Whysaurus as a Constrained Platform for AI-Assisted Reasoning

Could AI assist analysts with reasoning more successfully if we constrain that work to a structured argument outline rather than the “wide-open” space of prose?



Constrained Platform for AI-Assisted Reasoning

What might a prototype for AI-assisted structured argument look like?

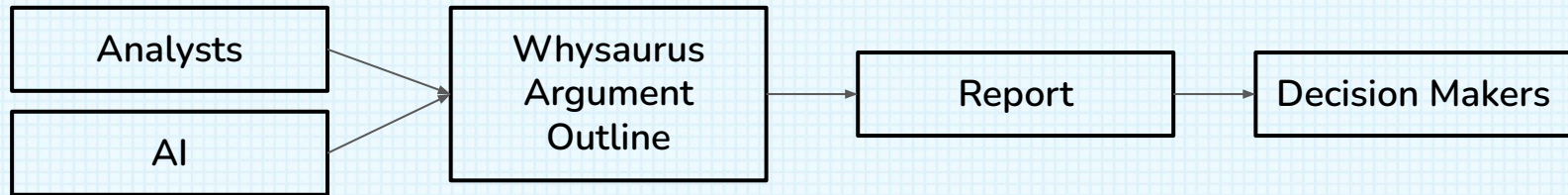
- Analysts start an argument outline in Whysaurus with a few claims
- Analysts click “Find Evidence” on selected claims
 - AI proposes some supporting- and counter-claims (Task Area 1)
- Analysts share the Whysaurus argument with peers and supervisors, who comment, flag claims that need evidence and clarifications, etc
 - Analyst and AI collaborate to revise and strengthen the outline
- Analyst clicks “Draft Report”
 - AI composes first draft of prose report based on the outline.
 - Analyst refines the draft



Saving Analysts time!



Constrained Platform for AI-Assisted Reasoning



Constrained Platform for AI-Assisted Reasoning

First AI tasks are achievable, and deliver value immediately

- Assemble lists of evidence
- Generate first draft of prose report based on argument outline

The process degrades gracefully

- If the AI fails at one task, the system still works
- Each task is clearly defined—so if an AI prototype delivers an unsatisfactory output the analyst can complete that task manually.



Constrained Platform for AI-Assisted Reasoning

Task Areas 2 & 3—working in the argument outline focuses AI tasks, increasing the likelihood of success

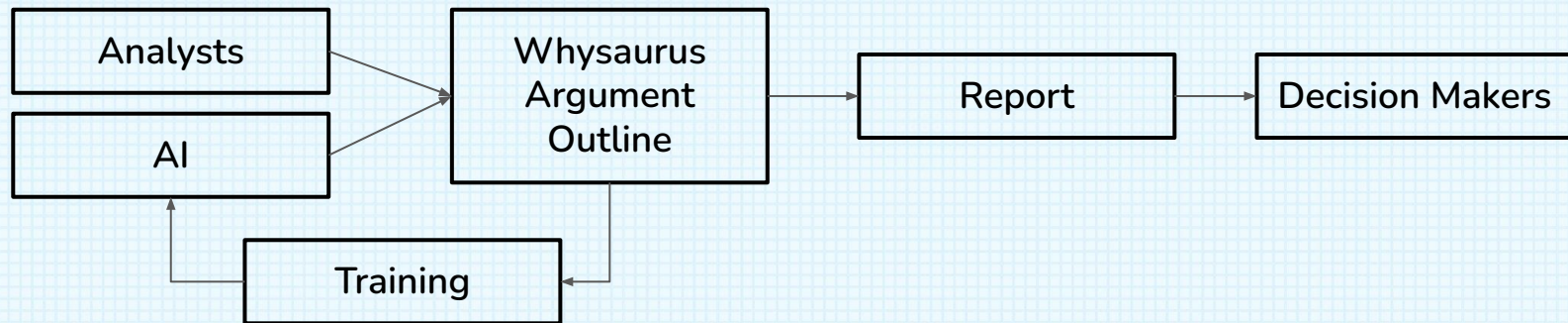
- Evaluate Reasoning (Task Area 2)—
 - Rate claim validity
 - Rate relevance of links between claims
 - Rate argument outline as a whole
- Produce Comments (Task Area 3)
 - Comment on claims
 - “Needs Clarification”, “Needs Evidence” and why
 - Suggest other ways to frame a claim or argument
 - Comment on links
 - “This claim is/isn’t relevant because _____”
 - Comment on argument as a whole
 - “A more valuable way to frame this argument might be _____”



Constrained Platform for AI-Assisted Reasoning

Long-term (Post-REASON)—a virtuous cycle of improvement

- AI improves rapidly because it can learn from data that's already structured, tagged, and directly related to what we are asking it to do.
- Analysts make more strong arguments better and faster



Whysaurus as a Constrained Platform for AI-Assisted Reasoning

Is an AI assistant what argument-mapping always needed?

- Many argument mapping projects have failed because argument-mapping is laborious
- AI can solve this by serving as a virtual assistant, unlocking the potential of this form



Thank you

Try it out

<http://whysaurus.com>

Get in touch

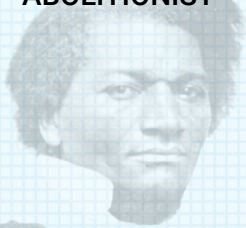
joshua@whysaurus.com



Appendix

Argument Is How We Make Progress

FREDERICK
DOUGLASS,
ABOLITIONIST



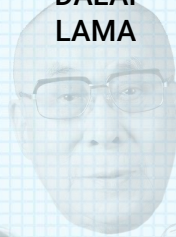
JANE
JACOBS,
AUTHOR,
ACTIVIST



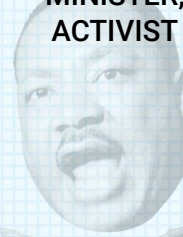
SONYA
SOTOMAYOR,
SUPREME COURT
JUSTICE



TENZIN
GYATSO,
DALAI
LAMA



MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR.,
MINISTER,
ACTIVIST



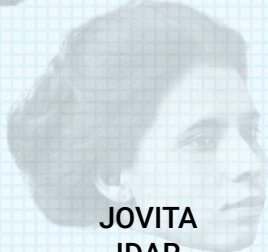
TAWAKKOL
KARMAN,
JOURNALIST,
ACTIVIST



EMMA
GOLDMAN
ACTIVIST



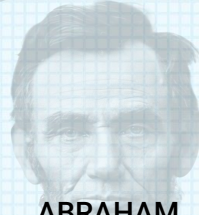
JOVITA
IDAR
JOURNALIST



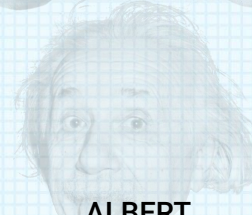
CHIEN-SHIUNG
WU
NUCLEAR
PHYSICIST



ABRAHAM
LINCOLN,
US PRESIDENT



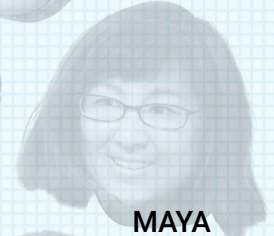
ALBERT
EINSTEIN,
PHYSICIST



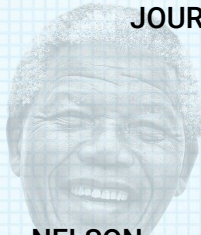
CESAR
CHAVEZ,
LABOR
LEADER



MAYA
LIN,
ARCHITECT,
ARTIST



NELSON
MANDELA,
REVOLUTIONARY



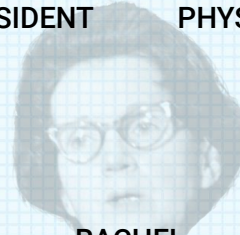
GALILEO,
ASTRONOMER



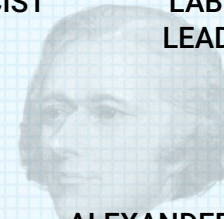
MUHAMMED
YUNUS,
ECONOMIST



RACHEL
CARSON,
BIOLOGIST



ALEXANDER
HAMILTON,
STATESMAN



IDA B.
WELLS,
JOURNALIST

